

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4768

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: PINOCHET'S SPEECH GIVES SMALL COMFORT TO JUNTA'S
EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL CRITICS

REFS: SANTIAGO 6114, 6207

1. SUMMARY: SINCE PINOCHET'S SEPT 11 SPEECH REFLECTS OUTCOME
OF INTENSIVE INTERNAL POLICY DEBATE, ITS TONE AND CONTENT
REPRESENT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT GUIDE POSTS TO JUNTA'S
FUTURE ACTIONS. SPEECH COMES ACROSS AS IMPLACABLE
IN ITS COLD-WAR STYLE ANTI-COMMUNISM AND ITS OPPOSITION
TO CLASSICAL LIBERAL DEMOCRACY; FIRM IN ITS REFUSAL TO
TAKE ANY APPRECIABLE INTERNAL SECURITY RISKS TO RESTORE
HUMAN RIGHTS; AND MORE DESCRIPTIVE THAN INNOVATIVE IN
ITS DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS. SPEECH
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HOLDS OUT LITTLE HOPE FOR GOC ACCOMMODATION WITH

EITHER ITS EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL CRITICS, INCLUDING
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. GIVEN CONTRARY THRUST
OF JUNTA MEMBER AIR
FORCE GENERAL LEIGH'S LONDON TIMES
INTERVIEW SAME DAY, HIS FUTURE ROLE BEARS WATCHING.
END SUMMARY

2. AFTER OVERNIGHT STUDY, WE EMERGE WITH FOLLOWING
IMPRESSIONS REGARDING PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S SEPT 11
STATEMENT, MARKING SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF JUNTA.

(1) IT MADE ONLY THE SCANTIEST OF CONCESSIONS
TO FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CRITICISM. THE WIDELY RUMORED,
MULTI-FACETED LIBERALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES DID
NOT OCCUR. WHILE WE MUST WAIT TO SEE HOW IT IS APPLIED, WE ARE
INCLINED TO BELIEVE ULTIMATE SUPREME COURT ROLE AS COURT OF
APPEAL IN INTERNAL SECURITY CASES OTHER THAN TERRORISM OR SABOTAGE
LIKELY TO USED SPARINGLY AND TO HAVE ONLY SLIGHT IMPACT ON EXISTING
INTERNAL SECURITY SYSTEM. UNDER EXISTING LAW GOVERNING NEW STATE OF
SIEGE, VERY FEW POLITICAL OFFENSES ARE SUBJECT TO CIVILIAN COURT
REVIEW (SEPTEL).

(2) AS CLEARLY AS ANYTHING JUNTA HAS PUBLISHED,
SPEECH REITERATES ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO "COMMUNISM"
AND COMMUNIST SUBVERSION, AS WELL AS THEME THAT LIBERAL
DEMOCRACY IS PLAYED OUT.

(3) SPEECH GAVE NO GROUND TO CRITICS OF GOC
ECONOMIC POLICY AND PROMISED NO ADDITIONAL RELIEF TO
THOSE PROTESTING ITS "SOCIAL COST."

(4) NATURE OF FUTURE CHILEAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AS SEEN
BY JUNTA EMERGES MORE CLEARLY IN SPEECH THAN EVER BEFORE. SPEECH
LAYS STRESS ON INSTITUTIONALIZING WHAT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE
TO BE AN AUTHORITARIAN LEGAL SYSTEM THROUGH NEW CONSTITUTIONAL
MEASURES, TO BE ADOPTED AT LEISURELY PACE. LARGELY HAND-PICKED
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF STATE AND OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED "CIVIC
MOVEMENT" DO NOT PRESAGE CREATION OF BROADLY REPRESENTA-
TIVE OR PLURALISTIC INSTITUTIONS.

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(5) SPEECH MENTIONED US ONLY IN BRIEFEST TERMS.
PINOCHET SAID CHILE HAD TRIED (PROCURADO) TO
INTENSIFY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE,
AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED AID ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING FOOD
SUPPLEMENTS FOR WORK RELIEF BENEFICIARIES. THERE WAS
MUCH GREATER STRESS ON CHILE'S TIES WITH NEARBY COUNTRIES;
A SLIGHT ADDITIONAL MOVE TO CONCILIATE THE ARABS; AND
A BOUQUET FOR SPAIN. THERE WAS STRESS ON THE SAFEGUARDING

OF CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY; WHEN CHILE SEEKS ECONOMIC AID, SAID PINOCHET, IT DOES SO STANDING UPRIGHT, WITHOUT ACCEPTING CONDITIONS THAT WOULD IMPAIR ITS DIGNITY AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.

(6) PINOCHET'S DEFENSE OF HIS ACTION IN BARRING FROM CHILE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP HELD OUT NO HOPE OF A CHANGE IN POSITION.

3. OUR OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT HARD-LINERS WITHIN GOVERNMENT HAVE SCORED, AND THAT JUNTA'S COURSE IS BEING ONLY MINIMALLY MODIFIED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CRITICISM. SPEECH ITSELF, AND ALL JUNTA'S CEREMONIAL ACTIONS ON THE ANNIVERSARY DAY, BESPEAK JUNTA'S CONFIDENCE THAT IT CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF POPULAR SUPPORT.

4. AS AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, LOCAL PRESS CARRIES REPORTS OF INTERVIEW GIVEN BY JUNTA MEMBER AIR FORCE GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH IN LONDON TIMES OF SEPT 11. LEIGH APPARENTLY EXPRESSED BELIEF JUNTA COULD BEGIN A PROCESS OF DETENTE, AND INDICATED HE DID NOT THINK THERE SHOULD BE POLITICAL PRISONERS OR THAT PERSONS SHOULD BE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF THEIR IDEAS. BASED ON LEIGH'S REMARKS, TIMES EVIDENTLY SPECULATED THAT PINOCHET'S SPEECH WOULD CONTAIN BROAD LIBERALIZING MEASURES. IN VIEW OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REPORTS OF LEIGH'S DIFFERENCES WITH PINOCHET WITHIN THE JUNTA, WE WONDER HOW LONG IT WILL BE BEFORE SOME NEW CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO OCCURS.
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